

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 STR-08 NSC-10

CIEP-02 AID-20 TRSE-00 AF-10 EA-11 NEA-11 RSC-01 SS-20

SPC-03 OMB-01 L-03 H-03 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SAM-01 COME-00 DRC-01

/215 W

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R 011950Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5193

INFO USUN 497

USOECN, PARIS 424

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 0832

OECD FOR MARTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, EAGR, UN, FAO

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 010697

1. ON JANUARY 31 EMBOFF SUCCEEDED IN SECURING APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS CONTENTS REFTEL WITH COUNSELOR JOSE MELERO, NOW DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS IN NEW SECRETARIAT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY. HIS OFFICE AND HIS FUNCTIONS WERE RECENTLY REMOVED FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY. SINCE RECEIPT REFTEL, EMBASSY HAD SOUGHT PERSISTENTLY TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE GOA OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SUBJECT AND GOA PLANS FOR PARTICIPATION. OUR EFFORTS TOTALLY IMPEDED UNTIL RECENTLY BECAUSE OF ABSENCE FROM CITY APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AND REORGANIZATION WITHIN GOA WITH OFFICIALS, ON THEIR RETURN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENGAGED IN PHYSICALLY MOVING OFFICES AND OUT OF REACH BY TELE-

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2. MELERO APOLOGIZED FOR INABILITY RECEIVE EMBOFF AT EARLIER DATE AND STATED DIVISION OF FUNCTIONS BETWEEN FONMIN AND NEW SECRETARIAT IN MINISTRY OF ECONOMY STILL IN FLUX. STATED HE BELIEVED ARGENTINA WOULD NOT ONLY ATTEND WFC IN NOVEMBER BUT ANTICIPATED GOA REPS WOULD SEEK PARTICIPATE PREP COM ON FEB 11 IF THEY STILL HAD NOT DONE SO. INDICATED MARKET EXPERT OF ARGENTINA'S UN DELEGATION WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO PARTICIPATE PREP COM. NO OFFICIAL WILL TRAVEL FROM BA FOR PREP COM. HE WAS UNABLE SPECIFY BY NAME WHICH OF ARGENTINA'S UN DELEGATION WOULD BE MOST LIKELY TO BECOME REPS IN CONNECTION WFC.

3. IT WAS EVIDENT GOA HAS GIVEN WFC LITTLE THOUGHT SO FAR AND HAS MADE NO STUDY OF ISSUES NOR PREPARED SPECIFIC POSITIONS. MELERO'S COMMENTS, AS REPORTED BELOW, WERE PREFACED BY HIS STATEMENT THAT THEY WERE UNOFFICIAL, PERSONAL VIEWS. EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT MELERO IS AS FAMILIAR WITH WFC AS ANYONE IN AUTHORITY IN BA AT PRESENT TIME AND HIS COMMENTS ARE AS AUTHORITATIVE AS CAN BE SECURED.

4. DURING AND FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, MELERO EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS IN CLOSE ACCORD RE US POSITION ON THEME OF CONFERENCE, THAT MAIN THRUST SHOULD BE ON PROBLEMS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS IN MEDIUM TERM AND WITH AGENDA OUTLINED IN PARA 9 REFTEL.

5. MELERO EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS, HOWEVER, CONCERNING POSSIBILITIES FOR RESTRICTING COVERAGE OF CONFERENCE IN WAYS OUTLINED IN PARAS 5, 6, AND 8 OF REFTEL. HE FELT THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ARGENTINA, WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO AGREE ON RESTRICTING THE CONFERENCE TO THREE MAIN FOOD-CROP GROUPS WHEN THEY HAVE STRONG INTERESTS IN OTHER ITEMS. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT WHILE IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO LEAVE OTHER INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND CONFERENCES TO COVER SOME ASPECTS OF WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS (AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 6 REFTEL), MANY COUNTRIES WOULD WISH TO EXPAND AGENDA ITEM ON IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION TO EXPLORE SUCH SUBJECTS AS AVAILABILITY OF MARKETS FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION AND HOW DISTRIBUTION AND RESERVES CAN BE FINANCED IN MORE ORDERLY WAYS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PROBLEMS OF LDCS.

6. COMMENT: WE REPEAT, GOA HAS NOT GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO PROBLEM OF KEEPING WFC WITHIN MANAGABLE AGENDA AND DESIGNATED TIME FRAME. IT SHOULD BE EXPECTED THAT ARGENTINE DELEGATES TO PREP COM WILL FOLLOW THIRD WORLD AND LDC POSITIONS TO LARGE EXTENT DURING DELIBERATIONS.

KREBS

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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